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22 March 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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22 March 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1.	Vietnam:	Current situation report.	(Pa	ge 1)	
					25X1
4.	Notes:	Colom	bia.	(Page 6)	25X1
T,	TIOTOB.	0010111		(- ·-3· ·)	

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

22 March 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Buddhist leaders may be planning to renew their protest activities soon, although public reflections of political unrest remained minor yesterday.

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A Buddhist communique issued in Saigon expressed "extreme surprise" over Premier Ky's recent public remarks which implied that the Buddhists were "scheming to betray and sell out the nation."

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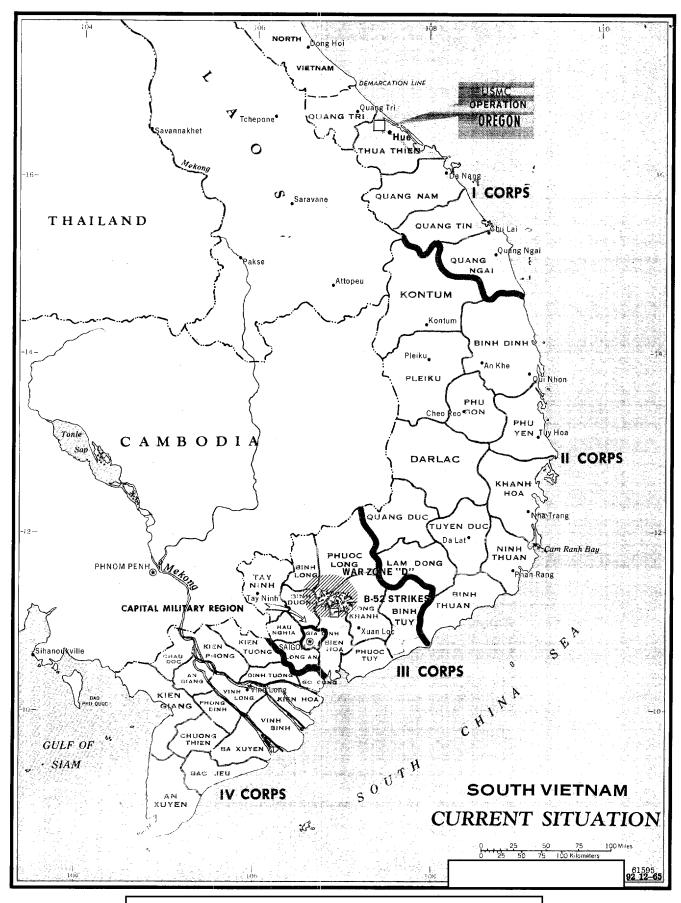
Deputy

Premier Co yesterday directed that General Thi be ordered back to Saigon immediately. General Co reportedly fears renewed trouble in central Vietnam as a result of Tri Quang's presence there. General Thi was last reported in Hue, and there is no information available concerning his response to yesterday's order.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A Viet Cong force estimated to number two platoons attacked Cam Ly airport outside Da Lat in Tuyen Duc Province early today. A Saigon spokesman has said government casualties were slight, while two Viet Cong were killed, two were captured, and three others--presumably collaborators--were seized.

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1



22 Mar 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

25X1

Early Monday, an estimated two companies of Viet Cong attacked elements of a South Vietnamese battalion in Binh Tuy Province. With tactical air support, government defenders killed 67 of the attackers while sustaining losses of 12 killed, 23 wounded, and two missing. A South Vietnamese ranger battalion reinforced government troops in the area, but no further contact has been reported.

Elsewhere yesterday, 21 B-52 Stratofortresses bombed two enemy targets in the Viet Cong "War Zone D" stronghold some 30 miles northeast of Saigon. There were no plans for ground forces to exploit either of the target areas.

On 20 March, US Marines conducting Operation
OREGON in Thua Thien Province battled three companies
of Viet Cong for about seven hours. US casualties were
ten killed and 42 wounded; Viet Cong losses totaled 48
killed.

25X1

22 Mar 66

2

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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